



Report on the Youth Policy Dialogue with Magnus Brunner, European Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration

Title: 'Youth Policy Dialogue with Commissioner Brunner in Bratislava – Discussion with young Slovaks' on security, migration, and border management'

Date: 11 September 2025

Location: European Information Centre in Bratislava, Slovakia

Introduction

The Youth Policy Dialogue in Bratislava brought together more than '30 under 30' young professionals and students to discuss young Slovaks' views and questions on security, migration, and border management.

The Dialogue took place on 11 September 2025 – a day after President von der Leyen's SOTEU address in Strasbourg, allowing for the amplification of her key messages. The topics focused on the portfolio of Commissioner Brunner – migration and internal security. The Representation invited primarily representatives of organisations and individuals active in these fields.

Summary of the Youth Policy Dialogue (In person-meeting)

The youth dialogue featured over 30 participants, young professionals and students aged up to 30 years. These included active students of eight universities in Slovakia and abroad, and representatives of the following organisations:

Government organisations

- Bureau of Border and Foreign Police, Presidium of the Police Force of the Slovak Republic.
- Migration Office, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
- Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic.
- City Court Bratislava 1.

United Nations

- International Organisation of Migration (IOM) Office in Slovakia.

Non-governmental organisations

- Human Rights League.
- Slovakia and Balkans.
- EDUmacy;
- Euroatlantic Centre.
- Model Parliament of Slovakia.
- Alumni of the Ivan Korčok Summer School of Diplomacy.

The youth dialogue took place in an informal setting, participants were seated in a circle of chairs allowing for a more spontaneous discussion. Acting Head of the European Commission Representation in Slovakia *Radim Dvořák* welcomed the participants and moderated the discussion. *Commissioner Magnus Brunner* had a short introductory speech to present his portfolio and the objectives of the youth dialogue. Almost all participants submitted questions in advance, as part of their registration for the event, which proved helpful to pace the discussion and structure it according to the topics of interest. The discussion was held in English.

Topics of discussion

In his opening keynote, Commissioner Brunner underlined the need for pragmatism and professionalism in addressing the migration agenda. He emphasised that the EU should reaffirm its position as a strong partner in these discussions. Highlighting the Pact on Migration and Asylum as the central framework for strengthening control over EU migration rules, he pointed to key areas where further progress is needed. These include return procedures, clearer criteria for safe countries of origin, and stronger cooperation with third countries. The Commissioner also reminded the youth of the benefits of Schengen, such as the freedom of movement, which are often taken for granted.

The discussion was structured by the following **thematic priorities**:

- the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, countering irregular migration, and the role of Frontex.
- the nexus between border security and the respect for human rights.
- the role of strategic communication in tackling migration.
- integration of migrants.
- solutions for refugees from Ukraine.
- hybrid threats and resilience.
- other internal security matters, such as the safety of Jewish and Muslim communities in Europe.

The debate reflected ongoing challenges at several internal and external EU borders, including Poland-Belarus borders, the Western Balkans, and Ukraine. Several participants stressed the importance of developing a common European migration and asylum policy that both safeguards human rights and ensures internal security. In view of the growing number of hybrid threats, the participants discussed how the EU can improve its resilience and security.



The youth dialogue concluded with several **recommendations to the Commission from the participants**, including:

- to enhance public safety and address growing risks, including hybrid threats from Russia.
- to communicate the work of the Commission more simply and accessibly.
- to balance the safety of law enforcement officials with the protection of migrants' human rights.

Follow-up Activities

Following the discussion, the Representation covered the Youth Policy Dialogue widely on social media, including dedicated posts on the X, Instagram and Facebook account of the Representation.